

SPEECH TO BE PRESENTED BY H.E. MR YOSHI HIRAISHI, AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO ZIMBABWE, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING OF GRANT CONTRACTS FOR “THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES FOR CROP STORAGE AND COMMUNITY GATHERING”

FEBRUARY 16, 2015

SALUTATIONS,

Mangwanani. Mamuka sei?

Director of KAITE-Trust, Ms. Nzenza and her colleagues

Welcome to the Embassy on a very special occasion today, whereby we sign the Grant Contracts to extend a grant up to nearly \$86,000 to KAITE Trust for “The Project for Construction of Facility for Crop Storage and Community Gathering”.

This project is focusing on local farmers who are producing rosella tea made from hibiscus, using organic farming methods in communal areas in Binga District. The grant is to be used for constructing a facility where farmers can store the crop, learn the agricultural skills and share information among members of a productive association.

Currently, farmers are suffering from unnecessary loss of harvest due to lack of proper storage. Without such a facility, even though they use organic farming methods, it is a serious challenge for them to maintain the quality of harvested crop. The project, therefore, will greatly contribute to the improvement of production circumstance for farmers in the area. The facility will also be used for agricultural training as well as information sharing among farmers and local people.

We are aware of the critical need to support local farmers as well as organic farming especially in the dry area like Binga where a means of making a living is extremely limited. We sincerely hope that this grant will be fully used to enhance the livelihoods of local people.

We wish you every success in the smooth implementation of the project and look forward to visiting Binga when the facility is completed.

TATENDA. MAKOROKOTO.